

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for protection of an electrode ~~(4)~~ during resistance welding of workpieces, including a strip ~~(1)~~ placed over the electrode ~~(4)~~, means for holding the strip over the electrode, and means for driving the strip, wherein the strip comprises a first metal strip made of a first material ~~(1)~~ is comprised of at least two superimposed to a second metal strip made of a second material which is different from the first material, wherein the first metal strip and second metal strip are strips ~~(2, 3)~~ made of different materials, said metal strips ~~(2, 3)~~ being exclusively positively connected by rabbeting or stamping, such that the first metal strip is strips ~~(2, 3)~~ are displaceable relative to the second metal strip each other.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the first metal strip ~~(2)~~ facing the electrode ~~(4)~~ is made from a material that does not adhere to a material of the electrode ~~(4)~~, and the second metal strip ~~(3)~~ facing the workpiece is made from a material that does not adhere

to a material of the workpiece.

Claim 3 (currently amended) : A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the first metal strip ~~(2)~~ facing the electrode ~~(4)~~ is made from a material selected from the group consisting of ferrous metals and an alloy having its main component being from the group of ferrous metals, and wherein the second metal strip ~~(3)~~ facing the workpiece to be welded, is made of copper or a copper alloy.

Claim 4 (currently amended) : A protection device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first metal strip and the second metal strip ~~(2, 3)~~ has a melting temperature of above 1000 °C or a conductivity of above 1 m/(Ω*mm²) .

Claims 5-6 (canceled) .

Claim 7 (currently amended) : A protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the metal strips~~ ~~(2, 3)~~ the first metal strip and the second metal strip are superimposed in a congruent manner.

Claim 8 (canceled) .

Claim 9 (currently amended): A protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the metal strips (2, 3)~~ the first metal strip and the second metal strip are arranged so as to be displaceable at different speeds.

Claims 10-22 (canceled)